July 26th 1897. — 5 M. — $12.00 Evangelist.

Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

General Building

AND

Repair Fund

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

GENERAL BUILDING AND REPAIR FUND

WHILE the funds for the erection of the buildings of the Woman's Board of Home Missions are secured by issuing calls for the needed amounts, and while no building is begun until an amount equal to the appropriation is in the Treasury, there is yet need of a *General Building and Repair Fund.*

Those who have been in any way connected with or interested in the erection of a building know how frequently it occurs that there are expenses, which, being unlooked for, could not be provided for in the estimates; they also know how necessary for the completion and perfection of the building it is that these extra expenses be promptly met, even though the cost of the building thus becomes somewhat in access of the original appropriation. The Building Fund of the Woman's Board is used for the erection of chapel school-houses, dormitories, teachers' houses, and manses for the native evangelists; the General Building Fund is used for the finishing of any such buildings, the expenses of which could not be entirely covered by the appropriation, which is, of course, always reduced to a minimum. Such a Fund enables the Board to apply money at a needed point at once, and do away with

the delays occasioned by issuing a special call and awaiting responses from societies.

In the eighteen years since its call into existence by the General Assembly, the Woman's Board of Home Missions has erected 258 buildings, valued at $565,255, on land valued at $125,000, with equipments costing $62,400, making a total of $752,855 of property secured through its exertions to the Presbyterian church. After sales on some fields the present inventory places the estimate at $740,000.

When a large sum of money is donated to the Woman's Board it is very natural, especially if it be given as a memorial, that the donor desires that it be used in the erection of a building for a mission school in some needy locality, and that the whole amount be so bequeathed. This secures a material, permanent memorial, which is in itself useful and valuable. But it should be remembered that a $10,000 building accommodating fifty boarding pupils necessitates an annual outlay of at least $5,000 to sustain the work, and that, unless an endowment fund of $125,000 is given to meet this expense, the sum must be drawn from the General Fund of the Woman's Board.

The Board now has as many buildings as can be sustained without an increased income. All those for which an appropriation has been made will be erected, but no new ones will be undertaken at present.

So many buildings necessitate constant repairs and occasional enlargements, and to meet these expenses a *General Repair Fund* is needed. Based upon the amounts expended for this purpose during previous years, a careful estimate places the sum required annually at $3,000.

THE PRESENT IMPERATIVE NEED OF REPAIRS.

After the retrenchment enforced upon the Board by the three years' crippling debt which precluded even the most obviously needed repairs, the necessity is laid upon Presbyterian women to make an unusual effort this year (1897-8) to "overtake their work" and put their school property in a condition worthy of the cause. There are three years' ravages to repair, hence an added sum must be so appropriated.

In buildings, as in clothing, it is very true that "A nail (stitch) in time saves nine," besides insuring both the health and comfort of teachers and pupils, and the greater success of the work. This *General Building and Repair Fund* is the material, practical side of the work, but it is as necessary to be provided for as any other. Without it all the other must fail for lack of the proper places and means. One cannot but be reminded of the old rhyme: "For want of a nail a shoe was lost," etc., with its accompanying lesson.